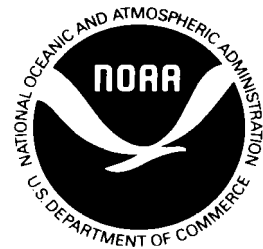


# NE Multispecies Charter/Party and Recreational Fishing Regulations



*Unless otherwise stated, the following measures apply to persons on board charter and party vessels that possess a multispecies permit and that are **not** fishing under the multispecies Day-at-Sea (DAS) program and recreational fishing vessels in the EEZ.*

## **Charter/Party Vessel Certificate to Fish in the Gulf of Maine (GOM) Closure Areas**

Vessels fishing under charter/party regulations may not fish in the GOM Rolling Closure Areas, Cashes Ledge Closure Area, Western GOM Area Closure, and the Conditional GOM Closure Areas (if applicable) unless the vessel has on board a letter of authorization issued by the Northeast Regional Office of NMFS. The letter of authorization is valid for a minimum of three months and is available upon request by calling the Northeast Regional Office at (978) 281-9370. As a condition of this letter, the vessel owner must agree to the following:

- Fish harvested or possessed by the vessel may not be sold, or intended for trade, barter, or sale, regardless of where the fish are caught;
- The vessel has no gear other than rod and reel or handline gear on board;
- The vessel may not use any multispecies DAS during the period of participation; and
- The letter of authorization must be carried on board the vessel.

## **Charter/Party Vessel Certificate to Fish in the Nantucket Lightship Closed Area**

Vessels fishing under charter/party regulations may not fish in the Nantucket Lightship Closed Area unless the vessel has on board a letter of authorization issued by the Northeast Regional Office of NMFS.

The letter of authorization is available upon request by calling the Northeast Regional Office at (978) 281-9370. As a condition of this letter, the vessel owner must agree to the following:

- Fish harvested or possessed by the vessel may not be sold, or intended for trade, barter, or sale, regardless of where the fish are caught;
- The vessel has no gear other than rod and reel or handline gear on board;
- The letter of authorization must be carried on board the vessel.

Vessels fishing under charter/party regulations are prohibited from fishing in Closed Area I and Closed Area II.

## **Prohibition on Fishing Under a Multispecies DAS While Taking Passengers for Hire**

Vessels with limited access multispecies permits are prohibited from fishing under a multispecies DAS when carrying passengers for hire. This provision is intended to more clearly distinguish between vessels carrying passengers for hire and other commercial fishing vessels.

## **Gear Restrictions**

Individuals are prohibited from fishing with more than two hooks per line and one line per angler.

All other fishing gear must be properly stowed.

### Minimum Recreational Fish Sizes

Individuals are subject to the following minimum fish sizes:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Inches</u>
Cod	21 (53.3 cm)
Haddock	21 (53.3 cm)
Pollock	19 (48.3 cm)
Witch flounder (gray sole)	14 (35.6 cm)
Yellowtail flounder	13 (33.0 cm)
American plaice (dab)	14 (35.6 cm)
Winter flounder (blackback)	12 (30.5 cm)
Redfish	9 (22.9 cm)

**Exception:** *Vessels may possess fillets less than the minimum size specified if the fillets are taken from legal-sized fish and are not offered or intended for sale, trade or barter.*

### Possession Restrictions

Each person on a recreational vessel may not possess more than 10 cod and/or haddock, combined, in or harvested from the EEZ (charter/party vessels are not subject to a bag limit).

- For purposes of counting fish, fillets will be converted to whole fish at the place of landing by dividing fillet number by two. If fish are filleted into a single (butterfly) fillet, such fillet shall be deemed to be from one whole fish.
- Cod and haddock harvested by recreational vessels with more than one person aboard may be pooled in one or more containers. Compliance with the possession limit will be determined by dividing the number of fish on board by the number of persons aboard. If there is a violation of the possession limit on board a vessel carrying more than one person, the violation shall be deemed to have been committed by the owner and operator.
- Cod and haddock must be stored, so as to be readily available for inspection.

### Restrictions On Sale -

It is unlawful to sell, barter, trade, or otherwise transfer for a commercial purpose, or to attempt to sell, barter, trade, or otherwise transfer for a commercial purpose, multispecies finfish caught or landed by charter or party vessels permitted under this part not fishing under a DAS or recreational fishing vessels fishing in the EEZ.

**Please Note:** This is a simplified summary of the measures in effect under Amendment 7 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. This summary has no legal standing. You should also get a copy of the official rules as published in the Federal Register.